

USACE FINANCE CENTER INTERNAL POLICY GUIDE UFC-123

SUBJECT: BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL

Ref: (a) 29 CFR 1910.1030 Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens; Final Rule of 6 Dec 91
(b) NFPA Standard #1581, 1994 Edition
(c) NAVSUPACT MEMPHIS INSTRUCTION 6220.1

1. Purpose. The purpose of this statement is to establish a policy to protect personnel from exposure to bloodborne pathogens (BBPs). BBPs include not only the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), but also other infectious organisms that employees could encounter.

2. Scope. This policy guide applies to all employees of the USACE Finance Center.

3. Definitions.

a. Bloodborne Pathogens. Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

b. Regulated Waste. A liquid or semi-liquid or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps; and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

c. Sharps. Any needle, lancet or similar pointed object.

d. Universal Precautions. An approach to infection control. According to the concept of "Universal Precautions," all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens.

4. It is the policy of the Finance Center to provide all employees in the workplace an environment free of recognized safety and health hazards. Furthermore, maintaining a

safe and healthful environment is the responsibility of all employees of the Finance Center.

5. In order to keep our working environment safe and free of health hazards, all materials used for administering and/or testing oneself for medical related problems, such as sharps, must be disposed of in a manner so as not to expose any employee or contractor to possible BBPs. At no time are sharps to be discarded in a public receptacle or in such a way that would expose anyone to possible contamination.

6. All regulated waste shall be disposed of in the proper manner as stated in 29 CFR 1910.1030 Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens; Final Rule of 6 Dec 91. The concept of Universal Precautions will be followed each and every time a sharp or any other regulated waste is encountered in the workplace. Following Universal Precautions is the best way to avoid exposure to BBPs.

7. Changes. This policy letter will be maintained on the UFC homepage. Changes will be made as needed to maintain current policy. POC for this policy is Gary Hudson, 874-8716.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Greene".

JAMES R. GREENE
Deputy Director, Administration